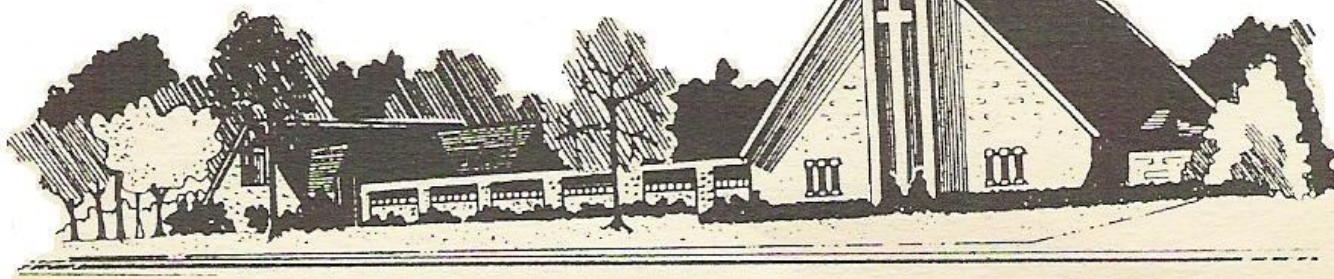
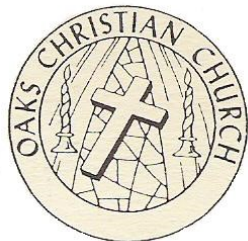


OAKS NOTES



Oaks Christian Church is a family church that loves to share God's word, God's Love, and God's fellowship with the world. We are a church in the near inner loop that strives to be a helpful part of the community. We are about Deep Christian spirituality, a true community and a passion for Justice. We celebrate communion every Sunday service and all who believe are welcome to receive.



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A Note from Pastor Don



Last month, I kept seeing all these advertisements for the big "Houston Boat Show" that was being held downtown. Every time I saw these ads, it reminded me of my boat I

had in Colorado. Living in the city of Pueblo, we were only 45 minutes from the Pueblo Reservoir, so it was great!

Now the boat I owned was a 16 ft. Glasstron V Hull with a mercury 225 HP single engine. It was enough to get you up to go skiing and have a good time. It wasn't real fast, but it was good enough. It was also great for going fishing and exploring little coves. Or if you wanted to just ride around on the lake, shut it down, and lay in the sun, it was just the right size!

I kept the boat parked in the driveway at the house which worked out well, because there were 3 or 4 other boat owners in the neighborhood. It made for a nice little fellowship of those who liked to brag or complain about their boats.

And by the way, did I ever tell you I never put my boat in the water!?! Not ever once! I didn't have time. I had a great boat in my front yard for everyone to see, but it never got to do the things it was meant to do. I never enjoyed the blessing of taking it out on the lake!

I sometimes think that's really not all too different than what we as believers do.

God has told us the incredible things we should do with the faith He's given us, like reach out to the lost, give to the poor, forgive those who have hurt us, pray daily, and so much more!

It's not uncommon for us to stick our faith right out in our front yard for everyone to see. Some of us even add little signs out there with our faith, like preacher, elder, or deacon. But God wants our faith to be doing so much more than just sitting there. He wants us to be doing things He made us to do! And if we're not doing those things, well, you got it – we're like a boat out of water. We're not doing what He designed us to do!

The previous owner had all kinds of fun with the boat while he still owned it. Or at least, that's what he told me when he sold it to me. And those are the ones I told you about at the beginning of this article. But I never actually did them. Instead, I just parked the boat in my driveway.

There are so many things God has told us we can do as believers, but we have never done them. We've probably even told others they can do these things, but have never done these things ourselves! Like I said, I sold my boat without ever doing anything with it.

But when it comes to our faith, don't let it just sit there! Do something with it! Then let's see if it will do what the Author of our faith said it would. I bet we won't be disappointed! See ya Sunday.

CYF MID-WINTER RETREAT COMING TO OAKS

Area youth members to gather in February for worship, fellowship

Superpowers, heroes, and comic books will be the hot topics at this year's CYF Mid-Winter Retreat, which Oaks is hosting from February 27 - March 1.

Leslie Wilcox, the administrative assistant at The Woodlands Christian Church, as well as one of the retreat coordinators, said the retreat will continue with its previous theme, "Superheroes of Faith." This time, they are focusing on not judging a comic book by its cover.

"So like Spider-man, from the original comic books, Peter Parker was somewhat of a nerd on the outside, but underneath, he was this amazing superhero," Wilcox said. "But because of how he looked on the outside, people treated him badly."

Wilcox said youth leaders are using analogies like Spider-man to help high school students understand the importance of not judging someone by his or her appearance.

"Our weekend will be complete with fun and fellowship," Wilcox said, "along with learning that everyone and anyone that you come in contact with could be that kind of awesome person and you might never know it."

Along with lessons, students will study 1 Samuel 16:7, which says, "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward ap-

pearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"

Seeing teenagers comprehend and interpret the retreat verse is one of Wilcox's favorite parts of working at the event.

"Watching the 'ah-ha' moments when things just click, and then listening to what the kids' opinions are about the scripture and what they think it is saying is awesome," Wilcox said. "That's why I do it."

The Mid-Winter retreats she said are like a little piece of sum-



RODEO LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars! Oaks will have a Rodeo Luncheon after Worship on Sunday, February 15. We still need some extra cooks, so if you have a favorite chili, gumbo, or dessert recipe you would like to bring to the event, please contact Barb Scantlin or Jimmie Saldivar to sign up! This event always proves to be a delicious one, so don't miss it. See ya there!



NOTABLE UPDATES

- **Recycling Cans:** We are no longer collecting empty cans at the church for recycling, so please do not throw them over the front fence. Thank you and sorry for any inconveniences.
- **Lunch Angels** will NOT take place on the fourth Saturday this month. When a new date is established for February, the office will notify the church immediately. Remember, any and all volunteers are welcome to help pack lunches and distribute them to the homeless. Please contact Katie Spencer at goldolds96@yahoo.com if you are interested.
- **Women's Bible Study** is back! Starting February 26, the women's ministry at Oaks will begin a 9-week study on Beth Moore's book, "Children of the Day: 1 & 2 Thessalonians." Please RSVP to Barb Scantlin at scantbabs@comcast.net by February 23, so she can order your book! (Books are \$16)

February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45	2	3 CWF @ 10 am; Tupperware @ 6; NO Bible Study; Girl Scts @ 6:30	4 Handbells @ 6 pm Choir @ 7 pm	5	6 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	7
8 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45; Board Meeting Renovada Service	9	10 Prayer Circle @ 9:30; CWF @ 10 am; Tupperware @ 6; Bible St. @ 6:15	11 Handbells @ 6 pm Choir @ 7 pm	12	13 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	14
15 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45; Dialysis Support	16	17 CWF @ 10 am; Tupperware @ 6; Bible St. @ 6:15; Girl Scts @ 6:30	18 Handbells @ 6 pm Choir @ 7 pm	19 PACE Chinese New Year Cele- bration @ 10:30	20 Boy Scouts @ 7:30 pm Renovada Bible Study @ 7:30 pm	21
22 Sunday School @ 9:30 am; Worship @ 10:45	23	24 CWF @ 10 am; Bible St. @ 6:15; Girl Scts @ 6:30	25 Handbells @ 6 pm Choir @ 7 pm	26 Renovada in sanctuary @ 6-11 pm	27 CYF Mid Winter Retreat Feb. 27 - March 1 →	28

Happy February Birthdays:

2.8 Vic Robertson
2.9 Megan Poling
2.10 Gloria Slocum
2.14 Kathy O'Dell
2.22 George Hajovsky, Pat Whitley
2.28 Frank "Frankie" Duplechain

Happy February Anniversaries:

2.24 Charles and Gloria Slocum



From the Treasurer - Dorene Drake

Operating Account '14	2014 OCTOBER	2014 NOVEMBER	2014 DECEMBER
Deposits	\$9,494.39	\$9,952.00	\$9,745.10
Disbursements	\$(10,643.96)	\$(8,675.18)	\$(9,922.49)
Difference	\$(1,149.57)	\$1,276.82	\$(177.59)

PRAYER CORNER

If you would like to include a person's name in this corner, please notify one of the Oaks elders, or contact our office. We believe the Prayer Corner is a wonderful reminder to lift up those in need.

Don't forget that Oaks also holds a "prayer circle" every second Tuesday of the month. We are always happy to pray for and with one another! As James 5:16 says, "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Gloria Slocum

Bernie Slaven

Lilli Curry

Evalyn Ratcliff

Charlotte Dison

Noah Diaz

Chris Vaughn

Mary Porker

Sue Harrison

Maria Zamora

Oaks Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

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Houston, TX 77018-1918

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Fax: 713-688-5100



Happy valentines day!

**Though our feelings
come and go, God's
love for us does not.
-C.S. Lewis**